



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

ROBERT L. MORGAN
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining


LOWELL P. BRAXTON
Division Director

OLENE S. WALKER
Governor

GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE
Lieutenant Governor

April 1, 2004

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Doug Jensen, Senior Reclamation Engineer 

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine,
M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Date of Inspection: March 22, 2004
Time of Inspection: 2:00 p.m.
Conditions: Sunny, Humid
Participants: Doug Jensen, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

Inspected the site to assess conditions of the 2002 reclamation of a waste pile at the site, and to check the tailings revegetation area for possible release. In a letter dated September 9, 2003, Hecla had requested the release of the portion of the bond covering the revegetation success of the tailings area.

Getting to the site:

Refer to earlier inspection memos.

Observations:

The waste pile at the site had been previously recontoured, had growth material placed over the surface and was seeded in the spring of 2003.

When the growth material was placed on the pile, the surface had been left smooth; no attempt had been made to roughen it. Because the surface was not ripped on contour as recommended, there are signs that some erosion is beginning to show on the pile. Also it appears that most of the manure that was placed on the pile had washed to the area at the base of the pile. Pictures of the waste pile were taken and are included in this report.

I walked the pile to check for signs of any plant growth. The only growth that I could see was several plants that appeared to be Russian thistle.

Page 2

Hecla Escalante Silver Mine

M/021/004

Inspection Date: March 22, 2004; Report Date: April 1, 2004

Because the weather had only just started to warm up at the site, I will check the site later in the summer to check on the results from the revegetation effort.

A check of the tailings area was also inconclusive due to the lack of sufficient time this season for plant growth.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

I will be visiting the site later with Ed Ginouves of the Cedar City BLM, when he checks the tailings area for noxious weeds (spotted-knapweed). Hopefully a decision can be made at that time as to whether the BLM will release this area. The Division's reluctance to release any part of the bond for this area is tied to BLM's insistence that the spotted-knapweed problem in this area be cleared up before they will agree to release the tailings area. Unless the BLM and the Division agree that this noxious weed problem has been eradicated, none of the bonding for this area will be released.

DJ:jb

Attach: photos

cc: Chris Gypton, Hecla Mining Co. w/attach

Ed Ginouves, BLM, Cedar City FO (UTU-67116) w/attach

O:\M021-Iron\M0210004-Hecla\Final\insp-03222004.doc



